IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original): A screw holding type screwdriver bit ~~characterized in that~~ for a screw having a bit engagement groove having a shape selected from the group consisting of cross, a three way form and polygon, said screwdriver bit ~~comprises~~ comprising: a plurality of blade portions ~~in which~~ having substantially perpendicular end edge portions [[are]] formed in tip ends of each of said plurality of blade portions, a part of one of said plurality of blade portions being cut out in a direction of an axis of said screwdriver bit; a guide passage ~~which has a specified~~ having a predetermined length and [[is]] formed in a part of a shaft portion of said screwdriver bit, said part of said shaft portion being on a line that is substantially an extension of said cut-out of said blade portion; and an elastic piece inserted and disposed in said guide passage, said elastic piece for elastically contacting [[a]] said bit engagement groove of a head of a screw and ~~having~~ for holding a screw ~~holding function~~ as a result of interaction with blade portions that are inserted into said bit engagement groove; and wherein

said guide passage is a long groove which has a predetermined length and is formed directly in said shaft portion on a line that is substantially an extension of said cut-out of said blade portion;

a protective sleeve that surrounds said blade portions and elastic piece such that the tip ends of said blade portions and elastic piece are respectively exposed is provided on an outer circumference of said shaft portion in which said elastic piece is inserted and disposed;

said guide passage is formed by further cutting out a part of said shaft portion of the screw holding type screwdriver bit along a line that is substantially an extension of said cut-out of said blade portion, and a guide passage being formed along said cut-out by said protective sleeve that covers the outer circumference of said shaft portion; and

a tip end of said elastic piece together with said plurality of blade portions extends outside of said guide passage for being elastically inserted into said bid engagement groove of said screw.

Claims 2-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): The screw holding type screwdriver bit according to Claim [[5]] 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a tip end of said elastic piece that has said screw holding function is inserted and disposed in said long groove so that said tip end is offset in a circumferential direction with respect to said flat blade portion that is cut out.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The screw holding type screwdriver bit according to Claim [[5 or 6]] 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said long groove has a width that is greater than a thickness of said flat blade portion that is cut out, and said elastic piece that has said screw holding function is inserted and disposed while being bent in a circumferential direction of said shaft portion.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The screw holding type screwdriver bit according to Claim [[5 or 6]] 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said long groove is formed in a position that is offset in a circumferential direction with respect to a position of said flat blade portion that is cut out, and a rear end of said elastic piece that has said screw holding function is inserted and disposed so that said rear end is anchored in said long groove.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The screw holding type screwdriver bit according to Claim [[5]] 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a tip end of the elastic piece that has said screw holding function is inserted and disposed in said long groove so that said tip end is offset outward in a radial direction with respect to said flat blade portion that is cut out.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The screw holding type screwdriver bit according to Claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said long groove has a width that is substantially equal to or slightly greater than a thickness of said flat blade portion that is cut out, and said elastic piece that has said screw holding function is inserted and disposed so that said elastic piece is bent in a radial direction of said shaft portion.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The screw holding type screwdriver bit according to Claim [[5]] 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a screw holding sleeve, which surrounds a screw

head that is held by said flat blade portions and elastic piece, is provided on an outer circumference of said shaft portion, which has said elastic piece that has screw holding function and is inserted and disposed in said long groove, so that said screw holding sleeve is elastically movable in an axial direction of said screwdriver bit.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A combination of a screw holding type screwdriver bit and a screw ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the combination comprises:

a screw that is formed with a bit engagement groove and a circular conical bottom, wherein said bit engagement groove is provided in a head of said screw and comprised of a substantially perpendicular end wall and two side walls disposed in an open end edge of said bit engagement groove, and said circular conical bottom is formed downward from a lower edge of said end wall to a center of a neck of said screw; and

a screw holding type screwdriver bit ~~that is comprised of: a plurality of blade portions in which substantially perpendicular end edge portions are formed in the tip ends of said blade portions, a part of one of the blade portions being cut out in a direction of an axis of said screwdriver bit; a guide passage which has a specified length and is formed in a shaft portion that forms a continuation on a line that is substantially an extension of said cut out; and an elastic piece inserted and disposed in said guide passage, said elastic piece elastically contacting said bit engagement groove of said head of said screw and having a screw holding function as a result of interaction with said blade portions that are inserted into said bit engagement groove~~ according to claim 1.